

Til Debt Do Us Part

Written By

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FADE IN

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING

An old dentist's chair occupied by a snoring JAKE BARNES.

The chair has been rigged with all kinds of funky electronic gadgets to enhance Jake's video gaming pleasure. A laptop computer is splayed across his lap with a 3-D cartoon slice of pizza spinning lazily on its screen.

A torn photo of two adorable kids, 4-year-old SAM BARNES and 1-year-old GABBY BARNES, is taped to one of the chair's gadgets.

The other half of the torn photo is of MEGAN BARNES, with a mustache and beard drawn on, and it's taped to the dartboard on the wall.

JAKE
(talking in his sleep)
Hold the anchovies...

DIGGER, the dog, lies next to the chair.

Digger nervously eyes a toy helicopter attached to the top of the alarm clock.

The time changes to 7:00 am. RIDE OF THE VALKYRIES starts to play. The copter's blades begin to SPIN.

Digger climbs up into the chair with Jake - cold canine nose pressing up against human flesh. Jake SCREAMS and falls out of the chair.

The copter LAUNCHES.

JAKE
Damn it, Digger!

Jake trips over a pile of dirty clothes. He swipes at the helicopter and hits a pizza box instead, launching pizza slices across the room.

JAKE
Son of a-

Jake grabs a Nerf bat and swings wildly.

JAKE
Face me like a man, you miserable piece of plastic!

The helicopter BOUNCES off a door and veers straight for him. The music suddenly STOPS and the helicopter falls lifeless to the ground.

Digger's paw is on the remote control.

JAKE

Why didn't you do that to begin with?

Jake crawls back into the chair.

JAKE

I've got to get a new alarm clock.

INT. APARTMENT - LATE MORNING

Jake's cell phone rings, pulling him back out of dreamland. The time on it reads 9:55. The caller ID reads "Boss Man".

JAKE

No! No. No. NO.

INT. KITCHEN - LATE MORNING

Digger looks up from behind his empty food bowl with big, sad eyes. Jake sifts through the debris on the kitchen floor, finds the bag of dog food.

EMPTY.

JAKE

You're killing me, you know that?
Come on, don't look at me like that. We got
this! We're MEN. Man up...or dog up.

Jake locates what looks like bologna in the fridge, and tosses some slices into Digger's bowl. The dog is repulsed.

JAKE

That's just for today. Don't be expecting
that every time.

Digger tilts his head in disbelief as he watches his stupid master eat one of the semi-green meat circles.

The clock reads 10:15.

JAKE

Damn it to hell.

Jake grabs his laptop and heads out.

JAKE

Don't go wrecking the place. Make sure to use the potty pad.

He kisses the Sam and Gabby photo.

JAKE

For the children, for the children, for the children.

Jake pauses just long enough to add devil horns to Megan's photo.

INT. MEGAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The steady BEEP, BEEP, BEEP of an alarm clock. Megan taps it off with an elegantly manicured fingernail.

Jake's old side of the bed is perfectly made. Her side is barely amiss. She has to do nothing more than pull the corner of the blankets back into place after she gets up.

SHOWER

She sings I'M GOING TO WASH THAT MAN RIGHT OUT OF MY HAIR.

SINK

Megan opens the medicine cabinet. Bottles are arranged in order of descending height. Megan finds the toothpaste, squeezes out a perfect line, sets an egg timer, brushes...

VANITY

Rows and rows of lip liners, eye shadows and other makeup, lined up by color like rainbows. Megan applies them with military precision.

CLOSET

Megan selects an outfit from among the rows with the care of an assassin selecting a weapon.

INT. SAM'S ROOM - MORNING

Megan throws open the curtains and finds Sam's bed empty. Two little feet stick out from underneath.

She pulls Sam out, still half asleep with his pirate eyepatch askew and foam sword tucked into his belt. He clutches a plastic FISHBOWL, a lone goldfish sloshing around inside.

SAM
Too early...

MEGAN
Come on, you know we've got a schedule to keep.

SAM
Daddy never has a schedule.

MEGAN
That's why Daddy has had so many jobs. Come on.

Sam sits up, mechanically raises his arms above his head. He knows the drill.

Megan pulls off his PJ top, slips on a t-shirt.

MEGAN
Pants.

Sam falls backward, sticks his legs in the air. Megan slips on his pants, pulls him up, adjusts his eyepatch.

MEGAN
(pointing to bathroom)
Potty. Brush teeth.

Sam SHUFFLES to the bathroom, still lugging the fishbowl.

INT. NURSERY - MORNING

Megan smiles down into the crib. Gabby smiles back.

MEGAN
Mommy's little girl happy to see her?

Gabby farts.

MEGAN
Or you just have gas.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Megan steers Sam away from the kitchen, while she juggles a freshly changed Gabby in one arm and her laptop, purse, and keys in the other.

SAM
Can we have pirate cakes?

MEGAN

You'll have to eat at daycare today,
sweetie. Mommy won't get a promotion if she
smells like maple syrup.

SAM

What's a promotion?

MEGAN

A promotion is what you get when you work
really hard and do a good job.

SAM

Like a smiley face sticker?

MEGAN

Even better. It means more money.

SAM

But Daddy says he gives you all of his.

MEGAN

Yeah, Daddy says all kinds of things.